

REMARKS

Claims 1-28, 46, and 59 have been cancelled. New claims 66-99 have been added. Claims 29-31, 33-45, 50-58, and 60-99 are pending. Claims 29, 44, 45, and 52 are independent. New claims 66-83 depend from claim 44 and recapitulate cancelled claims 2-20. New claims 85-96 depend from claim 45 and recapitulate cancelled claims 2-14, and new claims 97-99 depend from claim 45 and recapitulate cancelled claims 18-20.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 44 and 45, and for indicating the allowability of claims 37-42, 50-51, 57, and 60-64, among others. See page 6 of the action mailed July 21, 2003 ("Office Action").

Objections

Examiner has objected to claims 50 and 51. The Examiner states that these claims "are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim." See page 6 of the Office Action. Applicants do not understand the objection, however, as claims 50 and 51 depend from allowed claim 45. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 50 and 51 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 29, 30, 33, 34, 36, 52, 53, 55, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,361,146 to Singh et al. ("Singh"). See page 3 of the Office Action. Claims 29 and 52 are independent. In addition, claim 46 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,109,737 to Kishima. As noted above, claim 46 has been cancelled.

Applicants have discovered an ink jet printing module and a method of manufacturing an ink jet printing module.

At pages 6-7 of the Office Action the Examiner states: "[t]he combination or method as claimed wherein the piezoelectric element is lead zirconium titanate (claims 8, 32, 44, 52) or the piezoelectric element being positioned to subject ink within the channel to jetting pressure, and electrical contacts arranged for activation of the piezoelectric element... is not disclosed, suggested, or made obvious by the prior art of record."

Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitation that the piezoelectric element includes lead zirconium titanate. Claim 52 has been amended to include the limitation that the

piezoelectric element is positioned to subject ink within the channel to jetting pressure and the ink jet printing module includes electrical contacts arranged for activation of the piezoelectric element. Applicants thus believe that claims 29, 52 and the claims that depend from them are in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 11, 35 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Singh. As noted above, claim 11 has been cancelled. Claim 35 depends from amended claim 29, and claim 54 depends from amended claim 52. Applicants believe that the amendments to claims 29 and 52 overcome the obviousness rejection applied to claims 35 and 54. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

New claims 66-99


The new claims recapitulate cancelled claims 2-20, but depend from allowed claims 44 or 45 instead of cancelled claim 1. Applicants believe that the new claims are patentable as they depend from allowed claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed. A check for excess claims fees is enclosed. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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